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REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 4-9 are currently pending in the application. Claims 4-7 have been amended and claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in a this or a subsequently filed application. Support for the amendments to claim 4-7 can be found throughout the application as filed and in the Amendment under Article 34 made during the proceedings of International Application PCT/JP99/05670 (A copy of which is enclosed herewith). Claims 4-7 have merely been amended to comply with the multiple dependent format set forth in rule 37 CFR 1.75. No new matter has been introduced by the instant amendments.

Claims 4-9 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only and cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim.

Claims 4-7, as amended, are fully compliant with 37 CFR 1.75(c). Thus the objection should be withdrawn and the claims considered on the merits.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Morimoto et al.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Mantelle.

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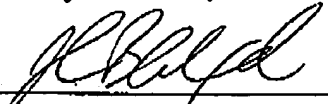
Claims 1-3 have been cancelled by the instant amendment to reflect amendments made by Article 34 amendment during the International phase of prosecution. Consequently the rejections of claims 1-3 are now moot and will not be addressed further.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Written Amendment

(Amendment under the Provision of Article 11)

To: Mr. Shunichi Yokoo, Examiner of the JPO

1. Indication of International Application: PCT/JP99/05670

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4. Object to be Amended:

Claims

5. Content of the Amendment:

In page 22, claims 1, 2 and 3 are deleted; "according to claims 1 to 3" in claim 4 is deleted; "(claim)s 2 to" in claim 5 is deleted; "according to claims 4 to 5, wherein a

pharmaceutical agent is contained as an effective ingredient" in claim 6 is amended to read "wherein a pharmaceutical agent is contained as an effective ingredient in the base for a percutaneously absorbing preparation mentioned in claims 4 to 5"; and "(claim)s 4 to" in claim 7 is deleted.

6. List of the Document Attached:

Page 22 (Claims)

Claims

1. (deleted)
2. (deleted)
3. (deleted)
4. (amended) A base for a percutaneously absorbing preparation wherein styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer and/or polyisobutylene, softener and tackifier are essential components and hexylene glycol and 1-menthol are sorbefacients. are the components of the base.
5. (amended) The base for a percutaneously absorbing preparation according to claim 4, wherein 10-40% by weight of styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer, 2-10% by weight of polyisobutylene, 10-60% by weight of softener and 20-60% by weight of tackifier are essential components and 1-10% by weight of hexylene glycol and 0.1-7% by weight of 1-menthol are compounded therewith as the components of the base.
6. (amended) A percutaneously absorbing preparation wherein a pharmaceutical agent is contained as an effective ingredient in the base for a percutaneously absorbing preparation mentioned in claims 4 to 5.
7. (amended) The percutaneously absorbing preparation according to claim 6, wherein the pharmaceutical agent is follicular hormone and/or luteinizing hormone.
8. The percutaneously absorbing preparation according to claim 7, wherein the follicular hormone is estradiol or a

derivative thereof and its compounding amount is 0.1-5% by weight.

9. The percutaneously absorbing preparation according to claim 7, wherein the luteinizing hormone is norethisterone, norethisterone acetate or a derivative thereof and its compounding amount is 0.5-10% by weight.